

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY

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RACE TO THE TOP PEER REVIEW SET

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – On Tuesday, August 10, five individuals will be in Washington, D.C. to present Kentucky's plan to the Race to the Top peer reviewers.

The five are:

- Dr. Terry Holliday, Kentucky Education Commissioner
- David Cook, director of the Division of Innovation and Partner Engagement, Kentucky Department of Education
- Mary Ann Blankenship, executive director of the Kentucky Education Association
- Tim Hanner, superintendent of the Kenton County school district
- Dr. Aaron Thompson, vice-president of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that 18 states (including Kentucky) and the District of Columbia are the finalists for more than \$3 billion available in the second round of funding in the Race to the Top program. Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia applied for the second round of Race to the Top.

The 19 finalists are Arizona, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and South Carolina.

The finalists will travel to Washington during the week of August 9 to present their plans to the peer reviewers who scored their applications. After the state's presentations and an extended question-and-answer period, the peer reviewers will finalize their scores and comments.

The U.S. Department of Education intends to announce the winners of the competition in September.

More information, including applications for this round of Race to the Top funding, is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>.